

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]]. In brief, claims 1-7 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 8-18 are original.

Claims 1-7 canceled.

8. (Original) A stent configured for insertion in a human blood vessel, the stent comprising:

- a body with an inner layer providing a first flexible covering;
- an outer layer providing a second flexible covering; and
- a middle wire mesh layer between the inner and outer layers, the wire mesh layer providing a compressible, self-expanding structure.

9. (Original) The stent of claim 8 wherein the inner and outer layers of the stent include PTFE.

10. (Original) The stent of claim 8 wherein the wire mesh layer includes nitinol.

11. (Original) The stent of claim 8 wherein the middle layer defines first and second ends and the middle layer includes a radiopaque portion adjacent at least one of the ends.

12. (Original) The stent of claim 8 wherein the inner and outer layers each define first and second ends, and further wherein the inner and outer layers are sized and aligned with their ends extending beyond the ends of the middle layer.

13. (Original) The stent of claim 8 wherein the inner and outer layers each define an end-to-end length and the inner and outer layers are sized to be substantially equal in length.

14. (Original) The stent of claim 13 wherein the middle layer defines an end-to-end length that is less than the end-to-end lengths of the inner and outer layers.

15. (Original) The stent of claim 8 wherein the inner and outer layers are sealed together adjacent the first and second ends, encasing and fixing in place the middle layer.

16. (Currently amended) The stent of claim 8 wherein at least one of the inner and outer layers are provided with a radiopaque portion adjacent at least one of the first and second ends.

17. (Original) The stent of claim 16 wherein the middle layer includes a radiopaque portion adjacent at least one of the ends, the combination of the radiopaque portion of the middle layer and the radiopaque portion of the inner or outer layer providing an X-ray indication of whether the middle layer has expanded beyond the ends of the inner and outer layers.

18. (Original) A stent delivery system for use in a human blood vessel, the system comprising:

a stent having a mesh layer, the mesh layer defining a middle portion between open, opposed proximal and distal ends and a central lumen communicating between the open ends, and further wherein the mesh layer includes a wire structure; and

a balloon catheter for mounting the stent and inserting and installing the stent inside the human blood vessel, wherein the wire structure of the mesh layer adjacent the distal end is constructed to be more compliant and to expand more rapidly in response to expansion of the balloon catheter as compared to the middle portion of the mesh layer.